

UNCLASSIFIED

PRW
MOPS



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

ZAI

December 2, 1992

RELEASED IN FULL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECL:OADR

TO: AF/FO - Mr. Cohen
THROUGH: AF/FO - Jeff Davidow
FROM: AF/C - Robert Pringle
SUBJECT: Update on Rwandan Conflict

With negotiations stalled due to failure of the GOR to reach a consensus on power sharing in the cabinet, we thought you might want an update.

Although the GOR and RPF delegations arrived in Arusha for the next round of political negotiations November 23, the Foreign Minister had no mandate to negotiate the remaining issues. The RPF refused to change the agenda to discuss military integration, despite earlier statements to us that this would be acceptable. Both sides have remained in Arusha, along with all observers. Meanwhile, a group of religious leaders in Kigali, at the request of Habyarimana, has tried to get the political parties to agree on power sharing in the cabinet. Such agreement would allow the Foreign Minister to continue negotiations with a mandate.

The religious leaders presented Habyarimana with their final proposition last weekend: 20 seats in the cabinet with 3 seats each for the MRND (Habyarimana's party), 3 for the RPF and each of the opposition parties (MDR, PSD, PL), 2 for a swing party (PDC), and 3 for the 11 other parties not included in the current government. When the MRND ministers failed to show up for a cabinet meeting Saturday, the cabinet approved the proposition. The MRND ministers promptly rejected it out of fear that the MRND would be marginalized in cabinet votes.

The Papal Nuncio insists that the bishops fulfilled their mission by submitting their proposition to the President and

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

will negotiate no further with the parties. There is growing consensus among the Western missions in Kigali that the bishops' proposition is the only alternative available to Habyarimana now. The Belgians and Germans are ready to join a joint demarche with the Nuncio to tell the President so. Ambassador Flaten has recommended that we join if the French do, and, surprisingly, it appears that the Quai is indeed authorizing the ambassador to join the demarche. However, in a speech last night, Habyarimana appeared to agree at least in principle with much of the bishops' proposition. It is unclear yet whether his general statements will permit specific instructions to be sent to the Foreign Minister in Arusha.

In the meantime, the internal security situation has degenerated, with mounting political violence and banditry causing wide-spread fear, particularly in Kigali. Security, judicial, and political party officials recommended dismantling party youth groups (responsible for much of the political violence) as an important step toward curbing violence. The Minister of Justice (opposition PL) submitted his resignation to the President last night, but the Prime Minister is refusing to accept it. It is unclear whether this was a political tactic to pressure the President, but the Minister is clearly frustrated that the security forces which are supposed to be controlling the increasing violence within Rwanda are actually fomenting it in many instances.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED